Ban on quacks

†539. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the practicing by quacks has been completely abolished in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the alternative arrangements made for the poor, destitute labourers of the forlorn areas who were availing the services of quacks under compulsion of financial scarcity;

(c) the reasons for the number of quacks being on the rise everyday, and whether trained doctors refuse to go to remote and poverty stricken areas, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) According to the provisions contained in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973, no unregistered practitioner can practise medicine.

Health being a State subject, State Governments are required to provide for health care facilities for all regions and sections in general and remote areas and vulnerable groups of the society in particular. The State Governments are also responsible for action against the trained doctors who refuse to work in remote the poverty stricken areas. They have been advised from time to time to take appropriate and necessary actions.

Delay in reimbursement of medical claims

540. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that long delays are caused by the Director, CGHS in making reimbursement of medical claims to the retired Government officials causing immense hardships to them;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the normal time taken in making reimbursement of medical claims and whether any complaints including from the Members of Parliament have been received for long delays in making reimbursements;

(c) if so, the action taken by Government; and

(d) the number of medical claims submitted before the 10th September, 2003 still pending for a decision and by when these would be finalized and payments made to the claimants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The medical reimbursement claims of CGHS pensioner beneficiaries are cleared within 4 to 6 weeks' time except in those cases which involve relaxation of rules, require the opinion of the Expert Committee; or in the event of budgetary constraints.

Some complaints were received in the recent past for early settlement of the medical claims of CGHS beneficiaries.

(c) The necessary follow-up action has been taken by settling all the said medical claims.

(d) None of the medical claims of CGHS beneficiaries pertaining to the period prior to 10-9-03 are pending with the DGHS except in those cases for which the position has already been explained in reply to (a) and (b) above.

Improvement of cancer and mental health care

541. SHRI B.J. PANDA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to sanction Rs. 60 crores for improvement of cancer and mental health care in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan; and

(c) the details of the proposals to improve health care service in Orissa under the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) An outlay of Rs. 285.00 crores for National Cancer Programme (NCCP) and Rs. 190.00 crores for the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) have been made by the Planning Commission during the 10th Five Year Plan.